



DPS officers take part in international terrorism drill

Concerned that communications and coordination would be inadequate to deal with a terrorist attack, the United States and Mexico staged their first joint terrorism drill along the Arizona-Mexico border during the second week of November.

The five-day exercise, which took place mostly in the Nogales area, involved more than 1,000 firefighters, emergency medical personnel and law enforcement officers from both the United States and Mexico.

Among the drill participants were some 20 officers from various specialized units within the Department.

The operation culminated Nov. 16 at the Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales with a series of simulated terrorist attacks, including several real explosions set off by special-effects experts. During one simulated explosion, a "fake" suicide human "bomber" pretended to blow himself up. Additional explosions took place in vehicles positioned at the U.S. Customs Service inspection compound and in a nearby tractor trailer rig. Another explosion triggered a simulated chlorine gas cloud that inflicted make-believe casualties, prompting a major rescue and decontamination effort.

The majority of the DPS officers involved in the unprecedented drill participated during the final stage of the event that occurred Nov. 16. Among DPS officers most involved in the final stage of the drill were members of the Department's Hazardous Materials Unit.

Just as they would have done in a "real" emergency, DPS HazMat officers helped serve as "on-scene coordinators" during the drill and assisted in the coordination of personnel and equipment.

The unit also assisted in the decontamination of the scene created by the make-believe hazardous materials that were dispersed throughout the area.



Mock Terrorist Blast

A fiery explosion set off by special-effects experts rips through several vehicles near the Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales on Nov. 16. The explosion was part of a joint terrorism drill along the Arizona-Mexico border. Photo courtesy of the *Nogales International*.

Other DPS units heavily involved in the drill were the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit and the Special Operations Unit (SOU).

Sgt. Bill Ross of DPS' Hazardous Materials Unit said a significant part of the drill was designed to force responding agencies to practice proper crime-scene management while under stress.

Before crime-scene management could be conducted during the drill, however, Ross said that units such as EOD would have to perform a simulated bomb sweep of the area that needed to be "managed."

When a specific area was determined to be safe by a bomb squad, Ross said units such as DPS' SOU would then provide "hot zone" security for that area to prevent people from entering the site while it was being "managed."

Law enforcement officers providing "hot

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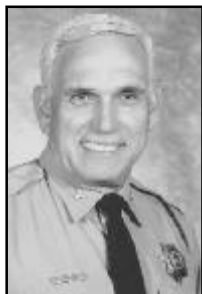
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From Director
Dennis Garrett's

Vantage Point

As we reflect on our accomplishments during this calendar year, each employee should have a lot of pride in what was achieved during a very challenging time for our agency.

Much of what was accomplished at the Department had national ramifications, especially in the area of officer safety.

Following a series of high-impact, rear-end collisions throughout the country in recent years involving the Crown Victoria Police Interceptor (CVPI), DPS was asked to participate on a national panel whose membership included well-respected representatives from several law enforcement agencies throughout this country along with representatives from Ford Motor Co.

This Blue Ribbon Panel eventually struck a partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the International Chiefs of Police Association to further address various issues in an effort to improve officer safety not just with the CVPI but in other areas as well. The Department also was in the forefront in developing and implementing several changes designed to improve the safety of the CVPI, the vehicle most Highway Patrol officers drive.

In an effort to make this patrol car less susceptible to fuel leakage during high-impact, rear-end collisions, DPS Fleet personnel interchanged a bolt that secured the brake cable with a smooth-head rivet and developed a high-tech rubberized shield to cover shock absorber towers. Variations of these safety measures were later adopted by Ford Motor Co. and became standard on later-model Crown Victoria Police Interceptors.

The war in Iraq also struck deeply within our family when more than 20 DPS employees and officers were called into active military duty, many serving during the heat of battle in Iraq. As 2003 draws to a close, several DPS officers remain in harm's way, serving our beloved country while deployed in Iraq and elsewhere. Our prayers and thoughts are with them.

At home, when the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy struck, the Department quickly offered its assistance by opening its Emergency Operations Center and contributing its services to NASA and the FBI in order to help facilitate their collective effort in locating and collecting shuttle debris that may have fallen onto Arizona soil.

Yes, we did experience our share of adversity. We had several officers injured in the line of duty, some seriously, but fortunately, we made it through the year without seeing one of our own die while on duty.

The failure of our officer parity bill during the last legislative session was truly disappointing. We are optimistic in the upcoming session that the legislature will take corrective measures that will result in a substantial pay increase for our officers.

These are just a few of many issues confronted by DPS employees during 2003 as we continued to fulfill our commitment to "Courteous Vigilance." I sincerely believe such pride and commitment to duty displayed by our employees translates into a safer Arizona, a place where we live, work and raise our families.

Have a cheerful holiday season and welcome in 2004 with pride. You've earned it.

Department continues to work on making patrol cars safer

By Major Deston Coleman
Highway Patrol Division

The Arizona Department of Public Safety continues to work to ensure we provide our personnel with the safest patrol vehicles possible. Early on while serving on the Blue Ribbon Panel, we recognized the importance of a nationally-recognized organization being involved in this project and requested the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the International Association of Chiefs of Police to take the lead.

Both organizations agreed to form a partnership to address this issue thanks to efforts by Director Dennis Garrett and Col. Bill Reutter, chief of the Highway Patrol Division. This issue has been designated as a priority for the IACP Highway Safety Committee Chairman Earl Sweeney.

The transition has resulted in the formation of the "Law Enforcement Stops and Safety" (LESS) Subcommittee chaired by Col. Reutter. Participating on this committee will be representatives from the Florida Highway Patrol, Phoenix Police Department, New York State Police, Pennsylvania State Police, California Highway Patrol, Washington State Patrol, Colorado State Patrol, Ohio State Highway Patrol, North Carolina Highway Patrol, Missouri Highway Patrol, Alabama Department of Public Safety, NHTSA, IACP, Federal Highway Administration and the Ford Motor Co.

General Motors (GM) and Daimler Chrysler Corporation have also been invited to join the committee as vehicle safety is not limited to one or two car manufacturers. GM has accepted while Chrysler, rumored to be getting out of the police car business, has yet to respond.

One area identified by both the Highway Safety Committee and the LESS subcommittee is the lack of federal standards for law enforcement vehicles. With manufacturers coming out with various types of vehicles for law enforcement use, all of which have attractive and useful qualities as well as potential detriments, it becomes increasingly evident that federal standards would be very helpful.

It is believed this subject area falls within the parameters of NHTSA as that agency has the staff and expertise to formulate such standards. As a result, Chairman Sweeney has requested NHTSA Administrator Jeffrey Runge to consider undertaking the project.

As the committee works toward ensuring the safest work environment possible for police officers, we will explore better ways to ensure officer safety during traffic stops and other roadside con-

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The Digest is published monthly by the DPS Training and Management Services Bureau for the employees and retirees of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Employees are invited to submit story ideas or stories for publication. Stories or story ideas may be submitted to *The Digest* by mail, EMS or Telephone (602-223-2313).

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The Digest can be accessed directly from the DPS World Wide Web home page at <http://www.dps.state.az.us/digest>.

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Patrol car ...

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tacts. This may be the single most important endeavor in terms of safety for today's police officers as recent statistics indicate that 46 percent of officers killed in the line of duty died in traffic-related tragedies. At DPS, that figure 56 percent, 15 of 27 of our deaths are traffic-related incidents.

Three subcommittees make up LESS. The Police Vehicle Group is chaired by me while the driver/pedestrian committee (policy and procedures) is chaired by Chief Joe Farrow, California Highway Patrol. Colonel Charles Andrews of the Alabama DPS chairs the Environment/Engineering Committee.

The Vehicle Committee will be providing input to car manufacturers on the design and manufacture of police vehicles as well as working with vendors on preferred after-market accessories/equipment and conspicuity (lighting and markings).

The Driver/Pedestrian effort will review tactics and procedures being used nationwide and develop best practices. This group will also review and analyze police collision histories. The Environment/Engineering group will work toward having input into the design of the highways we work, ensuring sufficient shoulder width, safety pullouts, and enforcement platforms. Weather factors, reflective garments and emergency-scene warning devices will be included in its study.

The Highway Patrol Division recently issued to its officers new OSHA-approved reflectorized raincoats and traffic vests designed for officer safety.

Significant improvements have taken place within our CVPIs. The shielding for undercarriage components that could penetrate the fuel tank during high-energy, rear-end collisions are on all DPS patrol vehicles.

Our most recent experience occurred on

New markings

In an effort to make its patrol cars safer, especially at night, the Department has redesigned its reflective markings, especially in the trunk area. In the above photo, a patrol car (left) with the older markings rests next to a patrol car featuring the newer version of reflectorized markings.

I-17 near Carefree Highway when a Ford Expedition, traveling at about 65 mph, struck the rear of a DPS patrol car moving at about 5 mph. The patrol car's top lights didn't affect the DUI driver who died in the collision. There was obvious override and the patrol car's tank received considerable damage; however, no punctures or fire. Our officer received head and other injuries and after a short hospital stay is recovering at home. A similar collision occurred this summer involving the Nevada Highway Patrol when its 2003 CVPI, equipped with shielding, was rear ended by an SUV. Again, there were no punctures of the fuel tank and no fire. It's also important, however, to remember officers were killed in rear-end, fire-related crashes in Missouri, Washington, D.C. and North Carolina during this approximate time period, and their CVPIs were equipped with shielding. These tragedies clearly point out we still have much work to do to protect our officers.

DPS is ordering trunk packs for all 2004 CVPIs. The trunk pack is a drop-in box with a plastic shell made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE). It helps align police equipment laterally (side to side) in the trunk due to a center divider wall. It utilizes a combination of HDPE and Kevlar to shield the forward panel of the trunk wall to further reduce the risk of equipment stored in the trunk pack from penetrating into the fuel tank and/or rear seat in high-speed, rear-end impacts. Arizona DPS and other states' agencies have experienced punctures involving floor jacks, pry bars, lug wrenches, metal boxes and other equipment/tools. Lateral configuration of trunk contents should increase officer safety.

DPS efforts in conspicuity have involved both lighting and markings for our patrol cars. Studies indicate a combination of red, blue and amber lighting are the most effective and the rotating type, rather than strobes, allow motorists approaching emergency scenes the depth perception and the ability to see more clearly. Obviously, more and brighter is not always the answer.

Scenes including multiple emergency vehicles with all lighting activated often confuse and blind other highway users, posing an obvious threat to officers and others inside or out of their vehicles.

Our 2003 models have the latest markings. This includes reflectorized tape being enlarged on the trunk lid and chevrons placed on the rear bumper that reflect a barricade effect. Reflective tape also outlines our vehicles making it easier for an approaching driver to identify the object and improve depth perception. Sgt. Robbie Milam was instrumental in the design and testing of these improved markings and DPS is one of the first police agencies in the country to adopt this scheme.

The 2005 CVPI will be equipped with a fire-suppression system. Testing indicates the system will extinguish fires that erupt when up to one and a half gallons of gas is spilled under the patrol car. This will provide additional time for the officer to exit the vehicle. However, this still does not meet our expectations. LESS will continue to focus on this issue, insisting that car manufacturers meet our needs.

Fuel bladders are still being evaluated as reports continue to indicate there is no evi-

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New dragster helps DPS promote safe driving among teens

Thanks to years of hard work by several people and numerous donations by Arizona businesses, DPS now has access to a high-performance drag racer.

The vehicle, a customized 1955 Chevrolet complete with emergency lights and sirens, will be used by the agency to help promote safe driving habits among teenagers.

The 800-horse power Chevy also features DPS logos and patrol car markings and is one of only a few active "police" drag racing vehicles in Arizona.

Since making its official debut about a year ago, the vehicle has appeared at some 50 public events throughout the state, including car shows, fairs, high school functions, and, of course, drag races.

The vehicle's sharp, sleek appearance and ferocious power has created a "buzz" everywhere it has been. The car has also been transforming its primary driver and caretaker, DPS Officer Marty Lepird, into an up and coming "super star" of sorts.

"I had never been asked for my autograph before until I started racing this vehicle just a few months ago," said Lepird, who is certified to drag race by the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

Lepird, a canine officer in Tucson, said that he and his older brother plan on racing the vehicle in all of Arizona's top drag racing events now that it has been tested on the track and has proven itself in small races.

So far, the Chevy's normal time in a quarter mile drag race is 10.2 seconds with a top speed of 132 mph.

"The vehicle is capable of getting a better time with additional adjustments and tests," Lepird said.

When Lepird takes the vehicle to a race, he typically competes in a very popular form of drag racing called "bracket racing" that uses computerized handicaps to equalize the competition.

"In bracket racing, very slow cars can compete head to head against very fast cars and vice versa," Lepird said. "It is a very exciting form of drag racing."

However, Lepird said that racing the Chevy wasn't the only reason the vehicle was restored to its pristine condition.

The car was restored, Lepird said, to play a major role in the national Race Against Impaired Driving (RAID) program to educate the public, specifically teenagers, on the deadly effects of impaired driving and illegal street racing.

The program also highlights the importance of wearing seatbelts.

"Racing the vehicle is only a very small part of the RAID program," Lepird said.

To get the message of the RAID program across to teenagers, Lepird and others at DPS plan to take the vehicle to as many public events as possible, including those which have nothing to do with racing.

"If there is an event that attracts teenagers, we will try to find a way to get the vehicle there," Lepird said.

So far, Lepird said the vehicle has really helped DPS officers spread safety messages to teens at the dozens of events in which it has been displayed.

"Teenagers typically don't like approaching cops, but this car really seems to capture their attention, and it works as a great conversation starter," Lepird said.

When teens see the car, they usually approach the vehicle with their friends and strike up conversations about it, Lepird said. Eventually, many of the teens will inquire about the car and view the various safety displays that are also presented with it.

Often times, Lepird and other officers standing with the car strike up safety dialog with the curious teenagers and distribute safety brochures.

Sometimes, though, the teens would rather have an autograph from Lepird than a safety brochure.

"Since I started presenting the Chevy, I have been asked to autograph T-shirts, pictures, hats, pieces of plastic, you name it," Lepird said. "It is fun, and it might help the kids remember to be safe just as much as a brochure."

In the end, Lepird said the public's reaction to the vehicle has been overwhelming since its debut.

"The response has been much greater and more enthusiastic than anyone could have ever imagined," Lepird said. "When the vehicle finishes a drag race, people stand up and scream as it passes by the grandstands on its return route. When the vehicle gets back to the pit area after a race, children run over to the car to get autographs and talk about drag racing."

Lepird said some of car's wide-ranging appeal must come from the fact that it is the first drag racing "police" vehicle many people have seen.

"There are many drag-racing police vehicles throughout the country but there have only been a couple in Arizona to my knowledge," Lepird said. "The only agency that still has one is the Phoenix Police Department and I have not seen it in a long time."

During his talks with teenagers, Lepird emphasizes his view that drag racing and all other forms of racing can be acceptable and fun as long as they are done on official race

tracks and in sanctioned events.

To prove that racing regulations need to be taken seriously, Lepird and his older brother, Troy, attended a drag racing class in California prior to getting behind the wheel of the Chevy for competitions.

Both successfully completed the class and are now certified to drag race at very high speeds by the NHRA, one of drag racing's governing bodies.

So far, all of Lepird's time presenting the car to the public has been donated to the Department.

His brother, an officer with the Mesa Police Department, has also donated time presenting the car.

In the future, Lepird said any DPS officers who help present the vehicle at public functions may receive authorization for "on-duty" time with prior approval.

If a DPS officer would like to request the Chevy for use in a community parade, car show, or other event, he or she can contact Lepird directly or DPS Sgt. Bob Ticer who is the Department's Media Relations supervisor.

Lepird can be contacted at (520) 746-4690, Ticer at (602) 223-2161.

Dragster has long history in its mirror

The 1955 Chevrolet that was recently restored to help DPS promote safe driving habits among teenagers has a long history to its starting with its purchase some 20 years ago.

The classic was purchased just \$800 by the father of DPS Officer Marty Lepird. Lepird's father, a retired Pima County Sheriff's deputy, originally bought the vehicle with hopes of restoring it and using it as a "public relations" vehicle for the Sheriff's Department.

The vehicle did not run at the time and it looked "pretty bad."

What the vehicle did have, however, was a very straight body that would allow it to be successfully restored. As it turned out, though, Lepird's father had a very difficult time gaining enough support to get the restoration project under way and the car ended up sitting at his uncle's property for the next 15 years.

The Lepird family dream of having the car restored returned to life in 1998, however, when then DPS Director Joe Albo was asked if DPS would be interested in endorsing a restoration project involving the vehicle.

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Eight officers at Department receive promotions to sergeant

Eight DPS officers were promoted to the rank of sergeant during ceremonies Nov. 12 at state headquarters in Phoenix.

Promoted to sergeant by DPS Director Dennis Garrett were William D. Beck, Raymond R. Butler, Deston F. Coleman Jr., Jack R. Johnson Jr., Dallas R. Luttrell, Tony N. Mapp, Brian R. Preston and Michael A. Prochko.

WILLIAM BECK

Beck's initial responsibility as a sergeant will be with the Highway Patrol in Oracle.

He began his DPS career in 1995, drawing Casa Grande as a first assignment. In 1999, he transferred into the Criminal Investigations Division assigned to the General Investigations Unit. Since April 2000, Beck has been with the Special Investigations Unit.

The new sergeant was a recipient of a 1996 Highway Patrol Squad of the Year Award, and in 2000, he received a Director's Unit Citation (DUC) while assigned to District 6 in the Highway Patrol. In 2002, the Kalamazoo, Mich., native received another DUC, this time while assigned to the Major Crimes Investigation District in the Criminal Investigations Division.

Beck earned an associate of arts degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College and currently is working on a bachelor of science degree at Ottawa University in law enforcement administration.

RAYMOND BUTLER

Butler began his DPS career in January 1999 as a lateral officer assigned to District 1, Kingman. In May 2000, he became a member of the Vehicular Crimes Unit in Kingman. With his promotion to sergeant, Butler will leave the Kingman area for a Highway Patrol assignment in Kayenta.

The Denver native who was reared in Kingman is a 2001 DUC recipient. He also received the American Legion Officer of the Year Award for Mohave County as well as for the state of Arizona.

Prior to DPS, Butler served eight years in the U.S. Navy. He also holds a bachelor of science degree in business management/business administration.

Butler is the son of retired Kingman Police Chief Larry Butler and retired DPS Officer Sharon Butler.

DESTON COLEMAN

Coleman began his DPS career as a cadet officer in September 1991. Upon graduation from the Arizona Law Enforcement

Training Academy in Tucson, Coleman drew Bullhead City for his first assignment. That was followed by a transfer to Gila Bend in 1992. In 1996, he transferred to Phoenix.

Two years later, he accepted an assignment with the Vehicular Crime Unit, and in 2003, he transferred into GITEM, a statewide gang task force.

The Phoenix native was a recipient of a 1995 drug interdiction award and in 1998, he was named the District 5 officer of the year as well as central region officer of the year. While assigned to the Vehicular Crimes Unit, he was presented with a Director's Unit Citation.

The son of DPS Major Deston Coleman Sr. and brother of DPS Sgt. Dansen Coleman also holds a bachelor of science degree in Criminal Justice Studies from Arizona State University.

With his promotion, Coleman will return to the Vehicular Crimes Unit.

JACK JOHNSON

Johnson's career with the Department began in 1997 as a cadet officer. Upon graduation from the Arizona Law Enforcement Academy (ALEA), Phoenix, in April 1998, the Tucson native was assigned to District 9. In 2000, he completed a temporary assignment with the Metropolitan Area Narcotics Trafficking Interdiction Squads.

He returned to the Highway Patrol in January 2001. A few months later, he was transferred into Southern Narcotics, Tucson.

When he was graduated from ALEA, Johnson was presented with the Top Cadet Award. He also earned an officer of the year award in 1999 along with two DUC awards—one with District 9 in 2000, the other with the Special Operations Unit in 2002.

The son of DPS Lt. Jack Johnson Sr., District 3 commander, Holbrook, has an associate of arts degree in Law Enforcement from Rio Salado College and a bachelor of science degree in Public Administration from Grand Canyon University where he also received a Certificate of Academic Excellence. As a sergeant, Johnson's first assignment will see him return to Southern Narcotics in Tucson.

DALLAS LUTTRELL

Luttrell began his DPS career in July 1994 as a lateral officer assigned to District 11. In March 2002, he served a temporary assignment with ALEA. Luttrell transferred into the Duty Office in February 2003 where he remained until his promotion to sergeant.

He also has served on the Field Training

Instructor Committee and the District 11 Officer Advisory Committee.

With his promotion, the Kentucky native will return to the Highway Patrol with an assignment in Tucson.

TONY MAPP

With his promotion, Mapp will leave GITEM for a Highway Patrol assignment in Nogales.

Mapp's career with the Department began in 1990. Upon graduation from ALETA, he was assigned to the Highway Patrol in Avondale. In July, 1994, he transferred into the Criminal Investigations Division with GITEM.

He also has completed temporary assignments with Narcotics and the FBI's Violent Street Crimes Task Force.

The Stanton, Tex., native has received three departmental officer of the year awards to go with his DPS Professional Excellence Award and a Director's Unit Citation. He also has received similar awards from the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks and the Sons of the American Revolution.

BRIAN PRESTON

Preston's career with the Department started in September 1996 as a lateral officer assigned to the Bisbee-Douglas area. With his promotion, Preston will transfer to Gila Bend.

In February 1998, he accepted a Highway Patrol assignment in the Graham-Greenlee counties area. About a year later, he moved to Benson.

While assigned to District 9, the Tucson native who was reared in St. David received a Director's Unit Citation. He also has served as a collision reconstructionist and a recruit training officer with the Department.

He holds an associate of arts degree in Administration of Justice from Cochise College and Eastern Arizona College.

MICHAEL PROCHKO

With his promotion, Prochko will transfer from his post as driving coordinator in Training to the Highway Patrol in Coolidge.

After graduating from ALEA in September 1996, Prochko headed for Gila Bend where his squad received a Director's Unit of Citation. Prochko then went from Gila Bend into the Duty Office at state headquarters.

The St. Louis native has a bachelor of science degree from Arizona State University in Global Business and Finance.



Who Is She?

Although she may be biting her lip trying to hold back a smile, such isn't the case today for this young girl who is employed at DPS? Who is she? Guess correctly and win either a denim or polo shirt courtesy of the Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona.

Interdepartmental e-mail entries should be addressed to Art Coughanour, badge no. 3131. Please remember to include your badge number with your entry.

Internet entries:
acoughanour@dps.state.az.us

Interdepartmental mail:
 The Digest, mail drop 1200

Snail mail:
 The Digest
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 P.O. Box 6638
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Winner of the October contest was Sue Josephson, a budget analyst with the Agency Support Division, who correctly identified the young girl with pig-tails as Kathy Fink, a grants coordinator with Criminal Investigations. There were two correct submissions with the winner being decided by a drawing.

Department receives \$3.2 million grant

In late September, the National Institute of Justice awarded DPS a substantial \$3.2 million grant for the processing of DNA cases in which there are no suspects.

The grant will allow all crime laboratories in Arizona to process evidence from violent crimes sitting in police property rooms for lack of a suspect. Resulting DNA profiles can then be searched against the Arizona and national DNA databases of convicted offenders with a high expectation of "hits" hopefully resulting in suspect identifications, and the subsequent removal of criminals from society.

According to a monthly report submitted to the Director's Office by DPS' Criminal Justice Support Division, the grant will allow an estimated 5,800 unsolved Arizona crimes to be reviewed.

The report said the Department's Scientific Analysis Bureau requested the grant on behalf of the crime laboratories at DPS, Phoenix, Mesa and Scottsdale.

The grant should benefit all Arizona law enforcement agencies and, ultimately, the Arizona residents, said Todd Griffith, DPS scientific analysis superintendent.

In addition, DPS recently signed a multi-year agreement with the FBI to establish a crime laboratory that will specialize in the analysis of mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA).

Griffith said analyzing MtDNA is extremely difficult, time consuming and costly.

The analysis is used on bones, teeth and hair when there is no living tissue available to conduct other DNA tests.

An Oct. 21 news release from the Governor's Office said the agreement with the FBI to establish and run the specialized lab will be in place for a minimum of five years. The specialized lab, to be established at the DPS Crime Lab in Phoenix, is slated to be operational within two years with the help of a \$500,000 renovation grant.

Additional grant funds will provide for the new lab's equipment, operations and eight additional investigators, the report said.

"Arizona's crime labs have long had a reputation for being high-quality," said Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano. "These projects will enable our state's criminal analysis facilities to remain at the cutting edge of new and unique technology in solving difficult cases."

Patrol car ...

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dence a bladder would reduce the likelihood of a fuel leakage should fuel tanks be punctured. Testing to date also shows signs of short life of the bladder and high maintenance over the life of the vehicle.

As the Driver/Pedestrian Committee develops recommended policies and procedures and best stop practices, it is important to note that the committee does recognize that where an officer makes a traffic stop and how the stop and approach are made is a tactical decision that only the officer can make based on the best information available as well as type of highway, immediate surroundings, traffic and weather conditions. That decision will never be taken from the officer. The committee only plans to collect and share what is considered the safest and most effective practices being utilized nationwide.

However, the obvious should not be overlooked. If possible, don't stop a violator on the highway. Rather take the vehicle off at an exit ramp and onto a less-traveled road or parking lot. If this is not possible and you make the stop on the highway, remember vehicle positioning is a tactical decision and whether you approach the violator vehicle from the driver's side or

passenger's side, don't assume the oncoming traffic is alert and aware your vehicle has stopped on the shoulder or near the pavement. Do not sit in your patrol car or allow a violator to occupy your vehicle unless you have a prisoner situation.

At collision scenes and ADOT construction locations do not sit in your patrol car. Protect yourself at all times. Studies have shown that the safest location stand while completing a traffic stop is six feet straight out from the passenger door of a patrol car.

I recently returned from the annual International Association of Chiefs of Police convention in Philadelphia where, along with Lt. Jim Wells, Florida Highway Patrol, and Davey Warren, Federal Highway Administration, I presented a workshop on police rear-end fire-related collisions intended to update police administrators nationwide as to the problem and recommended improvements that can be made.

Lt. Col. Reutter has scheduled the next meeting with LESS for January when project updates are expected from all participants.

Again, our mission is to create a safer working environment for law enforcement in traffic enforcement-related activities. We will work aggressively toward our goal through a coordinated effort of police agencies across the country and will report results in a timely manner.

The war on drugs

Sometimes money may smell like marijuana.

That's what DPS Officer Mark Villela learned Nov. 16 after stopping a vehicle for an equipment violation on Interstate 10 in the Phoenix area.

While talking to the two occupants of the vehicle, Villela detected the odor of marijuana. A search by a DPS canine led Villela to the seizure of \$62,000 in cash, but no pot.

For this motorist, it was a traffic stop he will probably never forget.

Nor will DPS Highway Patrol Officer Steve Robson.

Robson was patrolling I-17 about 10 miles south of Flagstaff Nov. 15 when he stopped the motorist for a traffic violation. A search soon followed in which Robson found \$31,895 in cash. He arrested the driver and had the vehicle returned to a rental agency.

The Phoenix HIDTA squad, assisted by Metro West Highway Patrol officers, followed up on a surveillance detail with the seizure of 1,961 pounds of marijuana.

While conducting surveillance on a home in Tonopah Nov. 14, HIDTA officers observed three vehicles leave the residence at about 5 a.m. Nov. 14. About 20 miles west of Tonopah, at the request of HIDTA detectives, DPS Highway Patrol officers attempted to stop two of the three vehicles.

The vehicle transporting the marijuana was chased into the desert where it became stuck while the second was stopped without incident. Detectives arrested the driver whose vehicle was carrying the dope.

An attempted traffic stop of a pickup truck proved futile, but all was not lost as DPS Highway Patrol Officer Jeff Mitchell still took 600 pounds of marijuana off the street.

Mitchell told the Duty Office that on Nov. 9 he tried to stop the pickup for a traffic violation on S.R. 85. Mitchell terminated his pursuit when it approached Gila Bend.

Later, the truck was found abandoned near Gila Bend. The marijuana was located in the bed of the pickup underneath some sheet rock.

About a week earlier, Mitchell was involved in a similar pursuit, but this time it occurred on I-8 just east of Gila Bend.

Mitchell told the Duty Office that while attempting to stop the vehicle on Nov. 1, the fleeing driver drove off into the desert and doubled back toward Mexico. The vehicle was found abandoned in the desert a few

miles south of Gila Bend by a DPS helicopter. With assistance from a Maricopa County Sheriff's Office 4-wheel drive SUV, the officers were able to reach the vehicle and found 620 pounds of marijuana inside.

Major Violators Unit detectives assigned to MANITS in Tucson arrested four suspects subsequent to a "buy-bust" operation Oct. 28 in which the suspects agreed to sell undercover detectives 500 pounds of marijuana for \$275,000.

Before calling it a day, DPS Sgt. Mark Morlock told the Duty Office that the officers seized 1,013 pounds of marijuana, along with two vehicles and \$4,000 in currency.

As part of the follow-up investigation, three days later detectives seized another \$5,000 in cash along with the Tucson residence involved in the investigation.

Although rookie DPS Highway Patrol Officer Raul Vegamay be a relatively new to the force, these drug-running suspects couldn't pull a fast one on him even if it was Halloween afternoon.

Vega was patrolling S.R. 85 when he stopped a white Ford Crown Victoria for a window-tint violation.

Vega told the Duty Office that as he approached the vehicle, he noticed that it had two antennas on its trunk and a red light in the interior making the impression that it was a police vehicle, but these efforts were to no avail as Vega found 256 pounds of marijuana inside the trunk.

Vega arrested two suspects on narcotics-related charges while seizing the disguised police car along with the contraband.

MANTIS Major Violators Unit detectives assisted the U.S. Customs Service Oct. 17 with a search warrant at a Tucson residence following the delivery of 2,600 pounds of marijuana to an undercover officer.

During the service of the search warrant, the officers seized another 1,100 pounds of marijuana along with three AK-47 assault rifles, two vehicles and a goose-neck trailer with a false compartment.

A DPS Highway Patrol officer conducted a traffic stop just east of Flagstaff and ended up seizing \$90,000 in cash.

Officer Mace Craft told the Duty Office that after stopping the motorist on I-40 Oct. 29, he requested a DPS canine. Once the canine arrived, the dog alerted on a false compartment. After the money was seized, the driver was released.

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Brian Greene's stop of a 1984 Cadillac for an equip-

ment violation resulted in the seizure of \$37,500 in U.S. currency.

Greene told the Duty Office that he made the Oct. 20 traffic stop on U.S. 93 just north of Wickenburg. He said he found the money in the trunk, adding that the driver was released after denying ownership of the money.

Taser training begins at DPS

A select group of DPS officers representing each Highway Patrol district in Arizona converged in Phoenix Nov. 24 to receive their first official Taser training.

The day-long training session was instructed by personnel from the Scottsdale-based company that manufactures the Taser X26 weapons. DPS recently started ordering for its officers.

The officers who successfully completed the training course are now authorized by the company, Taser International, Inc., to teach and certify other officers in the use of the Taser X26.

The officers who completed the course will be called upon in the very near future to teach other DPS officers in their respective districts how to use the Taser X26.

They will also be called upon to officially certify other DPS officers in the use of the less-lethal weapon.

Agency-wide training sessions are expected in the near future.

Dee Strickland, administrative assistant in DPS' Grants Administration Office, said the purchasing of Tasers at DPS is taking place in three stages.

"The first purchasing stage is under way," said Strickland, adding that 248 Tasers have already been ordered for DPS officers as part of the initial stage. Strickland said the cost of the first 248 Tasers, with accessories, is about \$250,000.

Strickland said the purchase came through Racketeering Influenced Crime Organization (RICO) funds provided through the U.S. Department of Justice.

Each of the next two phases of Taser purchasing at DPS will also cost about \$250,000.

Strickland said funding for the additional phases, which will take place each fiscal quarter, will likely come from additional RICO funding or from individual counties within Arizona.

"Pinal County has already stated that it will provide enough funding to purchase a Taser X26 for each DPS officer that regularly works within that county," said Strickland, adding that other counties in Arizona may do the same for the DPS officers working within their county boundaries.

Letters

Dear Director Garrett:

On Oct. 7, I had the privilege of going on a ride-along in the east valley with Officer Steve Babcock. My purpose for the ride-along was to get a glimpse at what your officers deal with on a daily basis as they patrol the freeways of metropolitan Phoenix.

During the 10-hour shift, I witnessed first hand the professionalism and integrity of Officer Babcock. His dedication to keeping the highways safe and serving the public is admirable. This dedication was also present in his supervisor, Sgt. Tom Elias, and fellow Officer Brian Bunch.

Thanks to Officer Babcock, I walked away from this experience with a greater understanding and appreciation for what the men and women of the Highway Patrol do for the citizens of this state and for the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

**Kevin J. Biesty,
ADOT Government Relations**

Dear Director Garrett:

I am writing to thank you and your officers for the assistance provided in the investigation and prosecution of Earl Leston Barnes and William Byron Allred for the murder of Garfield County Deputy Sheriff David C. Jones on Jan. 26.

Though it has not been widely reported, I am pleased to report that we were able to obtain convictions on both defendants. Barnes was convicted of aggravated murder, a capital offense, and was sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole. Allred was convicted of aggravated robbery, a first-degree felony, in connection with taking several articles, including handcuff keys from Deputy Jones as he lay dying in the roadway. Allred was sentenced to serve five years to life in the Utah State Prison.

I sincerely appreciate the assistance of your department and your fine officers in the apprehension of these suspects. In addition, your officers were very cooperative as we prepared for the trial.

We sincerely appreciate the professionalism and dedication of Officers Erik Axlund, Chris Motko, David Brookshire along with Sgt. Dennis Bratcher and the helicopter crew from Ranger 42.

I offer my personal gratitude to these officers for their service to the people of Utah and Garfield County.

Sheriff Wallace A. Lee, Garfield County

Dear Officer (Jennifer) Baxter:

On Oct. 6, you stopped me for expired

tags and issued me a warning. You have my sincere thanks for doing this.

It turns out the automobile dealership had turned in the wrong paper work and the state thought I had sold both cars to the dealership, and not sold one and purchased another. I have no idea of when I would have made that discovery without your assistance. Thank you.

John Odom, Phoenix

Dear Director Garrett:

I am writing to express my thanks for the help given me by Officer Cherie Thompson-Priesner.

After my husband and I had a tire blow-out on Interstate 17, Officer Thompson was a tremendous help. She stopped to be sure we were safe and that we had help on the way. She even obliged me with a ride to the airport when I told her I was going to miss a very important flight.

She was professional and courteous and, I think, a very good example of a DPS officer. She made a difficult and stressful time work-out for us. I made my flight, the tire is fixed and we are proud of this officer.

Tito and Lina Suazo, Glendale

Dear Director Garrett:

Officer Adam Lason deserves a commendation for alertness and excellent performance. It was after dark when I was traveling east on I-10 from California to Phoenix. I was passing a tractor-trailer when my left front tire blew out.

I did not lose control of the car and was able to pull over to the shoulder. I inspected the tire and headed for the trunk to get my reflective safety vest and spare tire. At that moment, a DPS patrol car, with lights flashing, pulled in behind my car. Officer Lason asked me what happened and if I was okay.

I am a 64-year-old grandfather, traveling alone, when my car was disabled in the "middle of nowhere." I had not changed a tire in many years. Officer Lason sized up the situation (and my inexperience in tire changing) and proceeded to help me. In short order, the spare was on the car and I was on my way.

I owe Officer Lason a special thank you. He was very alert. Though focused on another car at the time, he spotted what happened and immediately came to my assistance.

The shoulder of a busy highway is very dangerous, especially at night. Officers Lason's patrol car, with lights ablaze, reduced the danger substantially. Had he not been there, I would have been changing a tire in the dark, a few feet from vehicles traveling 75-80 mph.

Officer Lason went to work and assisted me in every possible way. He was there for me when I needed help – and I didn't have to ask.

When I thanked Officer Lason, he said it was just part of his job. That may be so, but he did his job exceptionally well with compassion and consideration.

Fred Wabnik, Phoenix

Dear Director Garrett:

Recently, my office at the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) was involved in an internal investigation relating to the unauthorized use and access of state computer equipment. Detective Patrick Smith and Sgt. Bob Hopper conducted the criminal investigation. I am writing to thank them for their professionalism, cooperation and thorough investigation of the allegations. It is extremely important, during times of fiscal restraint, to know that you can count on other state agencies to lend their support and expertise.

On behalf of the Office of Investigations, I compliment Detective Smith and Sgt. Hopper for their contributions and commitment to excellence.

**David A. Botsko, Director
Audits and Investigations, AHCCCS**

Dear Director Garrett:

I take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for the assistance provided by you and your department to Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Scotty Ferguson regarding a double homicide that occurred in Tennessee.

Although this homicide occurred in January 2001, Special Agent Ferguson had diligently pursued leads on the suspects involved in this case. During the investigation into these leads, he traveled to your state where he was assisted by your department in the interviews of the suspects, who confessed to the murders.

Our sincere appreciation goes to Sgt. Walter Mercer along with Officers Terry Johnson, Eloy Ramirez, Charles Serino Jr., Bob Marquez, Mike Lehar, Julie Gresly and Rick Valencia. Also, our thanks go to Analysts Carla Newton and Frank Harriman and to Pat Wertheim of the Southern Communications Center.

**Director Larry Wallace
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation**

Dear Director Garrett:

I was traveling through Arizona and stopped at the Texas Canyon rest area. While changing drivers, a piece of luggage fell from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Letters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

our van.

I want to thank the following persons for the safe return of the bag and its contents. There were valuables in the bag, but all were returned. All those involved were courteous and certainly went beyond their call of duty in helping to see that it was returned.

First, Rebekah Moorefield, caretaker at the Texas Canyon rest area, who called DPS Officer Brian Preston. Officer Preston, who got my name from my prescription medicines, called and left word on my answering machine.

DPS Sgt. Steve Harris, who along with Officer Preston, cataloged my bag and sent it to DPS Property in Tucson where Kim Kaler and Emily Ryan were such a help in figuring out how best to get my luggage safely back to me in a timely manner.

All these people were wonderful to me and I will never forget them.

Mildred White, Texarkana, Ark.

Dear Director Garrett:

On Aug. 11 President Bush visited the Tucson area and Mt. Lemmon. Since the terrorist events of Sept. 11, 2001, and the more recent combat actions in Afghanistan and Iraq, we have experienced a heightened level of security throughout the country. Nowhere is this new security awareness more prevalent than with the protection of the president.

For this particular presidential visit, the Pima County Sheriff's Department played a larger role in the protection of the president than ever before. Officers from your Department, including Officer Jim Wade, performed their various protection duties with the utmost professionalism.

They are commended for the key roles they played in the protection of the president. You should be proud of these officers and the way they contributed to this important event.

**Clarence W. Dupnik
Sheriff, Pima County**

Dear Director Garrett:

I would like to bring to your attention the outstanding performance of Janice Draper, supervisor for the DPS Applicant Clearance Team.

I had been contacted by Williams residents Christy Johnson and Paige Grimes who submitted fingerprint cards in anticipation of receiving permits to open a Montessori

School in our community.

We fingerprinted Ms. Johnson and our less-than-sterling performance at obtaining her prints was the reason for resubmission. Ms. Johnson resubmitted the second card, but the time for opening the school was fast approaching and there was every indication the analysis of the fingerprint card and criminal history check would delay certification, not only impacting Ms. Johnson's school, but many families who had contracted with her to advance the educational opportunities of their children.

I called Ms. Draper and explained this situation to her. She informed me Ms. Johnson's card had been received, but it was located somewhere in the vast piles of cards waiting to be processed.

Ms. Draper could have easily left the matter at that. Instead, she located the card, gave it priority and was able to contact Ms. Johnson and Ms. Grimes to pick up the completed forms from the Applicant Clearance Team in Phoenix in time to obtain their certification, open the school and serve the needs of several Williams families.

My sincere thanks and gratitude to Ms. Draper for the kind and generous service she gave to perfect strangers. Her performance is a credit to DPS and an outstanding example of the empowerment you have given your staff to make necessary decisions to provide timely, accurate and professional service to not only the Williams Police Department, but to the community we all serve.

**Frank Manson, Chief
Williams Police Department**

A Job Well Done

Editor, The Digest:

I read, with pleasure, the article in the October issue of The Digest regarding the efforts that AZPOST has made to protect officers' personal information.

By eliminating the Social Security Number from all but the most necessary documents, the privacy of the officers' personal identification is maintained. Evidently, the security of documents that must contain the Social Security number was also examined and found to be sufficient. Examinations such as these in every agency and private company would do much to reduce the rampant identity theft incidences in the state.

I applaud AZPOST for taking the initiative in this issue.

**Candy Zangle
Administrative Assistant
DPS Student Transportation Unit**

Acts of Kindness

These two complimentary letters appeared in The Arizona Republic's "Acts of Kindness" column.

Helpful Patrolman

One hot August day, my car broke down at the I-17/Greenway overpass in the middle of rush hour with my baby inside. I was blocking traffic, and we waited there for a tow with the hazard lights flashing as traffic drove around us.

The windows were down because the heat was unbearable, and I was worried about the baby. Suddenly, I was startled by a voice in my window saying, "What's the problem here?"

A Highway Patrolman had stopped to help. He was patient and kind, and I want to say thank you for stopping.

Ramona Hall, Phoenix

Highway Helper

On our way to catch a flight, our tire blew out on Arizona 51. Within minutes, DPS officer George Gregor was on the scene. He offered tools, manpower and a smile.

My husband had just had back surgery and changing a tire would have been very difficult for him. Officer Gregor stepped in, did the job and sent us on our way.

We made our flight, and what could have been a terrible incident became a confirmation of the goodness and efficiency of one awesome DPS officer!

Laura Rockowitz, Scottsdale

Terrorism ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

zone" security during a real terrorist incident would especially want "to keep an eye out for additional terrorists interested in breaching the scene and inflicting additional damage," Ross said.

Ross commented that some 40 local, state and federal response units from the U.S. and Mexico participated in the event.

Although some aspects of interagency communications appeared to struggle during portions of the drill, event officials considered it a success. What was particularly encouraging during the event was the cooperation displayed by agencies from both sides of the border, Ross said.

Officials from the state and local agencies who helped plan, coordinate and execute the operation, said it will take time to accurately analyze the exercise and specify in detail what functions can be improved.

Dragster ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Knowing the vehicle could be used to help promote safe-driving behavior among young people if it were restored and turned into a Highway Patrol "show" and "racing" vehicle, Albo quickly put his stamp of approval on the project.

Specifically, Albo granted approval for the vehicle to bare the DPS logos and markings that are seen on the agency's regular patrol vehicles. After Albo approved the use of agency markings on the vehicle, Marty Lepird started seeking community sponsors

who would be willing to donate money and services to get the restoration process under way.

Thankfully, Lepird had great success.

Four major sponsors quickly backed the project and so did the Pima County Attorney's Office who awarded the project a \$15,000 grant through a racketeering fund in Tucson. The four major sponsors who jumped on board to help restore the car were the Arizona Diamondbacks, Home Depot, Circle K, and the Desert Diamond Casino in Tucson.

In the end, the four large sponsors along with several small sponsors and the grant

combined to provide more than \$50,000 for the vehicle's restoration. The initial restoration work on the vehicle would involve sheet-metal installation, fiber glass installation, specialized racing electronics installation, and the installation of a roll bar to bring the vehicle up to racing specifications.

Several community businesses and individuals also donated restoration services and supplies as the vehicle progressed. Perhaps one of the most important donations made during the restoration project, however, was contributed by General Motors Corporation.

Lepird said the company, through its racing division, donated a new engine for the vehicle free of charge. After the engine was donated by General Motors, Lepird said the engine was taken to a company in Phoenix that specializes in turning normal stock engines into high-performance racing engines.

The company, called VASKO, ordered several high-performance parts for the donated engine and installed them free of charge. When the engine left VASKO, Lepird said it was a fully-equipped 509 racing engine estimated to be worth around \$17,000 with all of the high-performance parts that were placed on it.

Once the 800-horse power engine was installed, finishing touches were performed on the vehicle that included an expensive paint job and the installation of "police package" equipment such as emergency lights and sirens.

Code 3 Corporation, a company that manufactures police lighting, donated most of the required police package equipment to the project free of charge.

Lepird said the restoration process is complete, but that future plans for the car involve obtaining an enclosed trailer for it so it can be transported from event to event in a more secure environment.

Lepird said a grant through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) may materialize in January that might make the purchase of an enclosed travel trailer a reality.

If an enclosed travel trailer can be purchased, Lepird wants to turn it into a "rolling" memorial to DPS officers who have been killed in the line-of-duty by drunken or drug impaired drivers.

"The trailer could have large pictures on it of each DPS officer who has been killed by an impaired driver," Lepird said. "It could also provide information about each of the tragedies so that the public can realize where we received some of our motivation for this project to help prevent impaired driving."

Inside the Department

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Grasee, Wendell F., 532, Lieutenant

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Strong, David W., 1494, Telecommunications Technician

McNeese, Charles A., 1458, Officer

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lukacs, Maria, 2448, Senior Police Communications Dispatcher

RETIRING

Baumann, Mary E., 1217, Records Supervisor, 30 years

Hermann, Stephen L., 3156, Hazardous Materials Coordinator, 21 years

PROMOTIONS

Beck, William D., 5043, from Officer to Sergeant II

Birnbaum, Howard A., 3729, from Quality Assurance Manager to Assistant Scientific Analysis Superintendent

Butler, Raymond R., 5516, from Officer to Sergeant I

Coleman Jr., Deston F., 4582, from Officer to Sergeant I

Johnson Jr., Jack R., 5367, from Officer to Sergeant I

Luttrell, Dallas, 4900, from Officer to Sergeant I

Mapp, Tony N., 4381, from Officer to Sergeant I

Preston, Brian R., 5206, from Officer to Sergeant I

Prochko, Michael A., 5207, from Officer to Sergeant I

BIRTHS

Kailey Rae Cecil — 6 lbs., 15 oz. Born Oct. 26 at her home in Casa Grande to Officer Damon Cecil and his wife, Marie. Damon is assigned to the canine unit in Casa Grande.

Jacob Marcello Catalan — 4 lbs., 2 oz., 17 inches.

Born Nov. 6 at Thunderbird Samaritan Hospital, Glendale, to Gerri Harmon and Henry Catalan. Gerri is a payroll specialist in Financial Services.

Emmy Rene White — 7 lbs. 2 oz. Born Nov. 3 in Phoenix to Officer Denver White and wife Jennifer. Denver is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to Payson.

OBITUARIES

Harold Frank Van Duerm, 80, of Phoenix, passed away Oct. 24. He was the father of Nancy Buck, an administrative secretary with the Comptroller's Office, and father-in-law of Officer Rudy Buck, Applicant Processing Group.

Erling L. Nelson, 78, of Phoenix, passed away Oct. 25. He was the father of Earlene Richards, a criminal record specialist assigned to the Applicant Clearance Card Team.

Elizabeth Bonin, 68, of Tucson, passed away Oct. 27. She was the mother of DPS Sgt. Mike Bonin of Human Resources.

Dorothy Talakte, 84, of Snowflake, passed away Oct. 29. She was the mother of retired DPS Officer Ken Talakte and grandmother of DPS Officer Jonathan Talakte, GITEM South, Tucson.

John Louis Fink, 73, of Phoenix, passed away Nov. 6. He was the father of Sgt. Marty Fink, Metro East, and Sgt. Richard Fink, Metro West. He also was the father of retired DPS Officer John Fink.

Leslie Milton Spooner, 61, passed away Nov. 13 in San Diego. He was the brother of retired DPS Officer Chuck Spooner.

COP SWAP

Black & Decker electric lawn mower with rear-loading grass catcher and extension cord. Like-new condition, \$125. Black & Decker Groom N Edge electric trimmer/edger and extension cord, like new-condition, \$25. Teresa, 602-509-9921.

McCullough Pro Mac 610 chain saw, 16-inch bar, with case and extra chain. Used little, but does need to be cleaned and tuned. \$125. Art at 602-223-2313.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Down the Highways

December 1958

Louis O. Cochran, Badge No. 45, became the first Arizona Highway Patrol officer to be killed in the line of duty when his parked patrol car was struck from behind by another vehicle before bursting into flames. The Dec. 22 crash occurred about a mile east of Dateland on U.S. 80.

December 1973

Linda Baumgardner became the first female in Arizona history to become a Highway Patrol officer when she started patrolling the Tucson area during the first week of December.

Before joining DPS, the 23-year-old Baumgardner was an officer with the Billings, Mont., Police Department.

According to a spokesman, DPS has been hiring female commissioned officers for about three years, but assigned them to work criminal investigations instead of highways.

December 1978

During a traffic stop Dec. 11 near Benson, DPS Highway Patrol Officer Noah (Mack) Merrill was killed when he was struck by a passing tractor-trailer rig.

Merrill, Badge No. 695, was pronounced dead at the scene of the incident, about eight miles west of Benson on Interstate 10

December 1983

Tucson-area law enforcement officers were led on a chase at speeds of up to 105

mph Dec. 16 on Interstate 10 after a motorist's truck pinned DPS Officer Bob Greenberg between two vehicles.

The incident began on westbound I-10 when Greenberg stopped the man for a traffic violation. The motorist got out of the truck before it rolled back onto Greenberg's patrol car pinning the officer.

The man then returned to his vehicle and fled. The chase ended a few miles later when the suspect's car slammed into a utility pole after exiting the freeway. The suspect was not injured while Greenberg suffered a leg injury.

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Tom Burlile was shot in the left arm while approaching a subject he had found slumped over the steering wheel of a station wagon parked in the middle of an access road leading to the Black Canyon Freeway.

When first viewing the man, Burlile noticed that he had a pistol. He radioed for backup and after Fermin Torres and Bill Hopkins arrived, Burlile approached the car again. The man then tried to drive off when Burlile broke through the driver's side window in an attempt to turn the ignition off.

The driver then fired at Burlile. Torres and Hopkins returned fire striking the man in the left arm and right thigh. The suspect drove a few hundred yards before stopping

and being subdued by other responding officers.

December 1988

Lt. Col. Richard Shafer, assistant director of the Criminal Investigation Bureau at DPS, retired from the agency on Dec. 31 following 34 years of service. Upon Shafer's retirement, Rick Ayars was promoted from major to lieutenant colonel and assumed command of CIB.

December 1993

A traffic stop for speeding near Buckeye Dec. 21 led to the arrest of a suspect sought by Washington authorities in the rape of a 13-year-old girl.

While talking to the motorist after making the traffic stop, DPS Officer Danny Golden spotted a pipe on the front seat that normally is used for smoking marijuana. After placing the suspect under arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia, the man gave Golden a fictitious name.

Later, Golden determined that the suspect was from Washington. A short time later, Golden learned the suspect's legal name and was informed that Bellevue, Wash., police were preparing to charge the man as a suspect in rape of a young teenager.

The DPS officer arrested and booked the man into the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office jail in Phoenix.